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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Patent Examining Operations**

Applicant(s): Pittenger, et al.  
Serial No: 09/319,521 Art Unit: Unassigned  
Filed: June 4, 1999 Examiner: Unassigned  
Title: Improved Chondrogenic Differentiation of Human Mesenchymal Stem Cells

#4

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Kindly advise the undersigned attorney of the status of the above-identified application and an approximate time of when an Office Action on the merits will be issued.

**FIRST CLASS CERTIFICATE**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited today with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
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*Raymond J. Lillie* 7/17/2000  
Raymond J. Lillie, Esq. Date

#73523 v1

Respectfully submitted,

*Raymond J. Lillie*

Raymond J. Lillie, Esq.  
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